

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A device for directing energy to a target area of the~~modification~~ skin, comprising:

an energy source that ~~emits~~ provides energy;

an intermediate substance that contacts the skin, and blocks the emitted energy from directly striking the target area contacting the skin; and

an absorbing material embedded in the intermediate substance that absorbs at least a portion of the emitted energy, and thereby provides heat to the target area.

~~whereby the absorbing material absorbs the energy, and transfers at least a portion of the absorbed energy to the skin without ablating the skin.~~

22. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a suspension containing high absorbing particles.

23. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a thin film containing high absorbing particles.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a paper containing a highly absorbing substance.

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises agar ~~is made of agar containing highly absorbing particles.~~

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is a solid mixture containing highly absorbing particles.

30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance contains a liquid mixture containing highly absorbing particles.

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises is a thermal insulator containing highly absorbing particles.

34. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises is a layer of thermal conductor containing highly absorbing particles.

35. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises is a metallic layer containing highly absorbing particles.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the energy source comprises a laser.  
~~intermediate substance contains high absorption particles as the absorbing material.~~

38. (currently amended) A method of treating a skin blemish, comprising: for modification of  
~~skin comprising the steps of:~~

~~generating an energy source that provides energy;~~

~~emitting radiative energy towards a target area of the blemish;~~

~~blocking transmission of the radiative energy to the target area by interposing an~~

~~intermediate substance that absorbs the radiative energy to produce heat; and~~

~~applying an intermediate substance on the skin, wherein the intermediate substance~~  
~~contains an absorbing material;~~

~~absorbing the energy from the energy source; and~~

~~transferring at least portion of the absorbed energy to the skin without ablating the skin~~

~~allowing the intermediate substance to conduct the heat to the target area.~~

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the intermediate substance comprises is a thin insulating material mixed with grains of material capable of absorbing at least one frequency band of the electromagnetic energy.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the emitted radiative energy comprises pulses from a laser. ~~intermediate substance is a conducting material with an absorbing substance applied to the side facing the burst of electromagnetic energy.~~

41-44. (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 further comprising a heat removing mechanism to remove heat from skin.

46. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the intermediate substance includes the absorbing material in sufficient density to convert at least 20% of the emitted energy to heat. <pg 44, lines 8-9).

47. (new) The device of claim 21, wherein the intermediate substance includes a plurality of absorbing locations. <pg 21, lines 8-10).

48. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the energy source comprises a diode laser.

49. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises laser emissions.

50. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises ultrasound.

51. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises microwave.

52. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the radiate energy source comprises X-ray.

53. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the radiate energy source comprises a particle beam.

54. (new) The method of claim 38, further comprising actively cooling the target area.